gharia, West Bengal was taken over under the provisions of the Industries (Development & Regulation) Act, 1951 with effect from 24th October, 1981. The circumstances of the case require that several aspects are required to be gone into and hence it has not been possible to take a decision in this regard.

Nationalisation of tetile and jute mills

730. DR. R. K. PODDAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to nationalise textile and jute mills in the coutry; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Nationalisation of textiles mill of Bombay

731. DR. R. K PODDAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state what are the reasons for the delay in nationalising the 13 sick textile mills of Bombay which were taken over in October, 1983?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): The nationalisation of the 13 Bombay mills could not be undertaken so far because a detailed examination of the various alternative courses of action is necessary

Uniform tax code

732. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to introduce a uniform tax code;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) by when it is likely to be given effect to?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) The Government proposes to introduce a tax code relating to direct taxes.

(b) The tentative proposals formulated by the Government were published in the form of a Discussion Paper, which was placed on the Table of both the Houses of Parliament on 14th August, 1986. Final decisions in regard thereto are being taken in the light of the comments and suggestions received in response to the Discussion Paper.

(c) A comprehensive Bill amending the direct tax laws is proposed to be introduced in Parliament shortly. The tax code will then be taken up and introduced in the next financial year.

733. [*Transferred to the 21st November, 1986*].

Minimum wages for agricultural labour

734. SHRI NARAYAN KAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to enact a Central legislation on agricultural labour to ensure minimum wages and humane conditions of work;

(b) whether there is any State Legislation ensuring minimum wages within their respective States;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof;

(d) whether there is any machinery for settling disputes of agricultural labourers with the employers;

(e) if so, in how many cases employers were punished during the year 1986; and

(f) how many cases are pending final disposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The Minimum Wages Act, 1948 has been extended to all the States/Union Territories except Sikkim.

(d) Yes, Sir. The Chief Labour Commissioner (Central) Organisation of the Ministry of Labour handles the disputes under Industries Disputes Act, between the ogricultural labourers and their employers in respect of those Schedule employments in relation to which Central Government is the appropriate Government. The disputes in respect of those employments in relation to which State Government is the appropriate Government are dealt with by the respective State Governments.

(e) and (f) As far as Central Government is concerned, no employer was punished during the year 1986 and no case is pending. Information in respect of State Government is not maintained by the Central Government.

Child Labour

735. SHRIMATI BIJOY CHAKRAVARTY:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total numebr of child labour in the country;

(b) whether there is any scheme with the Central Government to solve this problem in a phased manner; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) As on March, 1985 the number of working children was 17.38 million as estimated by the Planning Commission.

(b) and (c) A statement is enclosed.

Statement

Government have taken the following measures/schemes towards the progressive elimination of child labour:

(1) The employment of children has been banned in factories, mines and certain other hazardous employments.

(2) The Employment of Children Act which bans the employment of children below 14 years and 15 years of age in certain employments has been amended to make the penalty for violation of its provisions more stringent.

(3) A Central Advisory Board on Child Labour has been set up to render advice to the Central Government on the problems of child labour. The terms of reference states among other things, that the Board would (a) sugegst legislative measures as well as welfare measures for the welfare of working children, and (b) review the progress of welfare measures for working children. Several State Governments/UnionTerritories have also set up such Advisory Boards on Child Labour.

(4) Two pilot projects to protect and lookafter the welfare of (1) Children working in match industry in and around Sivakasi (2) Carpet weaving children of Mirzapur-Bhadohi area of U.P. have been taken uo by the Ministry of Labour. The Sivakasi project has been launched in April, 1986. The Mirzapur-